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same area of government land as a pre-emption claim at a cost of only a few dollars for the necessary papers. Farms thus acquired within 25 miles of Minneapolis and St. Paul, for example, are now worth \$25,000 or more, and the farmer can market his produce and get home in his auto-truck in a half a day.

Poor men cannot pay these big prices for land; and the government is already beginning to help the soldier with little or no money to get hold of a bit of land on which he can support his family when he has one. The government will also see that he has a little house and that other needs will be supplied. When he is able, he will be expected to pay for this.

There are many other men, not soldiers, who will wish to make homes and acquire a few acres so that they and their families may be comfortable. All sides of the great question are discussed in this book. It treats of many phases of acquiring and developing small farm properties and tells of the experience of Denmark and other countries that have made a great success of small-scale dairying, poultry raising, and other farm enterprises and are happy and prosperous.

CYRUS C. ADAMS

A GEOGRAPHICAL HANDBOOK ON POLAND

E. WUNDERLICH, edit. **Handbuch von Polen (Kongress-Polen): Beiträge zu einer allgemeinen Landeskunde.** 2nd edit. xxxii and 511 pp.; maps, diagrs., ills., bibliogr., index. Dietrich Reimer (Ernst Vohsen), Berlin, 1918. 11 x 7½ inches.

Warsaw fell before Hindenburg's armies August 5, 1915. Early in 1916 the German governor-general of Warsaw ordered a comprehensive work written on Congress Poland, which means the region called Kingdom of Poland by the Congress of Vienna in 1815. It is the part of Poland that fell to Russia and is therefore quite separate from the portions of that country long included in Prussia and Austria. The name Congress Poland is meant to make this clear. In January, 1917, the "Handbuch" was first issued, and the edition was exhausted in a few months, exciting interest "even in Polish circles." This second edition was issued in January, 1918. During all this time Congress Poland was occupied by the German armies; but the Germans had intimated that they meant to make this territory independent. The treaty of Brest Litovsk, annexing it to Germany, had not then been signed.

Eight of the fourteen authors represented in this volume were on the governor-general's staff, one representative each of the press and big business, and one expert each for agriculture, geography, physics, meteorology, forestry, and geology—a staff equipment characteristic of German thoroughness. The other six were university men of technical training.

Learned and unlearned Germany had been alike in the dark, we are told, about the nature and resources of this region, so near their territory. The Russians had kept investigators out and had discouraged studies by the Polish inhabitants.

The book is a valuable contribution to the geology, physiography, and economics of the country and contains important matter concerning its inhabitants and their material and cultural condition. Although written on conquered ground for the use of a military governor, it does not thereby differ so much from older German books as might be the case if the Germans had been less convinced of their superiority to all other races. It is thorough and clear, makes much use of Polish and Russian sources, and shows personal investigation by the authors. The authors try to maintain an impartial and scientific attitude. It evidently has not occurred to them that their work is propaganda. That there has long existed a hatred of the Germans in Congress Poland is recognized. This hatred is explained as being due to characteristic intrigues of the Russian government. The work of Dr. Schultz and Dr. Praesent on the people of the region shows their belief—not explicitly stated—that the one thing these people need is the protection and guidance of the German government. The governor-general says he was well pleased with the book.

The Germans had no idea there were so many of their countrymen in Congress Poland (719,000) nor that they had preserved their habits and speech so well. Dr. Praesent was astonished to find near Lodz numerous purely German villages masquerading under Polish names.

Of old the Poles were herdsmen in the forest or forest openings. German peasants came in in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries, cut the forests, and founded innumerable villages and cities in which the Polish nobles, in their gratitude, allowed them to enjoy the freedom customary in German cities. They tilled the land and taught the Polish peasants to till it. There were great numbers of these German peasants, they made the land valuable to the nobles who owned it; but, though eagerly invited, they were soon merely tolerated and then oppressed. The country became a great producer of grain; but the nobles attached the peasants to the soil in order to

keep their labor, and a period of waning prosperity followed. The emancipation of the peasants in 1864 and the introduction of modern tools and methods since then have given agriculture a great impetus. Again, at the beginning of the nineteenth century, when the Czar wished to manufacture Russian raw materials within Russian territory and invited German weavers and other artisans to come to Lodz to establish factories, Germans came in great numbers and inaugurated the era of industrial prosperity that distinguished that corner of the Czar's dominions. Lodz, which had less than 1,000 people in 1820, has now 500,000, though it has no single feature other than the Czar's whim to make it a suitable site for an industrial city. These two services of the Germans, the introduction of agriculture and of industry, have never been properly appreciated in Germany!

The Poles are said to be bright, cheerful, excitable but not liable to become ugly under excitement, and very patriotic. At work, however, they are clumsy and lack persistence. Polish manufacturing processes and products were unnecessarily costly but enjoyed a vast market in Russia that would be lost in the event of Polish independence; yet it was thought that under better management economies would make it possible to market products within the country.

A peculiar feature of the agriculture of the land is that more than half of it is occupied in small farms by families so large that they consume their whole product. Although two-thirds of the people are agriculturists, the country had to import grain from Russia. The war, by cutting this off and causing inevitable devastation, brought distress! Briefly, but in quite another tone, we read of the "unutterable sufferings" the war brought to the Germans in the country.

The forests have been badly handled, wood being exported in times of scarcity. The best industrial region is south of Lodz, near the coal mines. The mines produced 7,000,000 tons yearly as compared with 44,000,000 tons in Upper Silesia. The capital employed in industry was mostly foreign, mostly German one gathers, though the amount is withheld in a statement that assigns 60,000,000-70,000,000 rubles to France, 15,000,000-20,000,000 to Russia, and 5,000,000 to England.

Next in number to the Poles are the Jews, speaking Yiddish, which is really a modified German, though more of them came from the East than from the West. These 2,000,000 Jews are of low culture, filthy in their habits, and form a majority of the inhabitants of the cities, except Lodz and Warsaw. Russian law forbade them to live in the same villages with Russian farmers. Some of them are factory hands or travel as itinerant tailors, cobblers, or carpenters—a great deal of handwork being customary—but mostly they are peddlers, traders, shopkeepers, or bankers. It was characteristic that in Warsaw handmade shoes were cheaper than the local factory product.

In short, Congress Poland is a transition state between Germany and Russia. Germans, though resisted by Russia, had given it what share of modern culture it possessed. These Germans, intelligent factory hands and farmers, constituted 5 per cent of the population. 75 per cent were Poles, ignorant, inefficient, and amiable; 15 per cent Jews, dirty and ignorant; and 5 per cent Russians and Lithuanians.

MARK JEFFERSON

MINERAL RESOURCES OF SOUTH AMERICA

B. L. MILLER AND J. T. SINGEWALD, JR. *The Mineral Deposits of South America.* ix and 598 pp.; maps, diagrs., ills., bibliogr., index. McGraw-Hill Book Co., Inc., New York, 1919. \$5.00. 9½ x 6 inches.

A thoroughly praiseworthy piece of work has been done by these two authors, who have not merely compiled a list of mineral localities with some comment on the petrography of South America but have also conceived their problem in a broad way and have written informatively. The material is arranged in alphabetical order by countries. There is an introductory section on the physiographic divisions of South America, and the description of each division includes a brief statement of the topographic features, the rocks, and the mineral deposits of economic importance. The discussion is necessarily brief and, from the geographical standpoint, less interesting and valuable than the geographic sections under the several chapters that deal with the countries of South America.

While the absence of geographic features in a book on mineral topics does not constitute a fair basis of criticism, one cannot help remarking that the topographic features are described quite empirically, with no mention at all of physiographic history and no generalization regarding topographic form. The descriptions of the Andes run like the descriptions of the older textbooks, according to mountain chains, mountain heights, passes, etc. The result is that one obtains no adequate picture of the topography of South America as a whole or of the several countries. It would have required no more